

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 298666 TOSEC 120190
ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 298666 TOSEC 120190

NODIS

CHEROKEE WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 21614 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 14 DEC 77

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 21614

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOR ACTING SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

DEPT PASS SECRETARY NIACT IMMEDIATE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EG, US

SUBJECT: TALK WITH SADAT

1. AMBASSADOR ESMAT ABDEL MEGUID GAVE DINNER THIS EVENING
AT MENA HOUSE FOR CAIRO CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS. HE
INVITED MY WIFE AND ME TO ATTEND. AS WE WERE GOING IN TO
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DINNER, ONE OF HIS AIDES TOLD ME PRESIDENT SADAT URGENTLY
WISHED TO SPEAK TO ME ON THE PHONE. THE AIDE TOOK ME TO
ABDEL MEGUID'S SUITE TO PUT THE CALL THROUGH TO THE
BARRAGES. THE CONNECTION WAS INDISTINCT AND TWO OF
ABDEL MEGUID'S AIDES WERE AROUND. HENCE, I COULD ONLY
LISTEN AND COULD NOT QUERY THE PRESIDENT ON DETAILS.
WHAT FOLLOWS BELOW IS WHAT I COULD MAKE OUT FROM SADAT

WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO ASK ANY EXPLANATORY QUESTIONS. IT WAS CLEAR THAT SADAT WAS UPSET AND HE WANTED HIS COMMENTS PASSED IMMEDIATELY TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE.

2. SADAT SAID THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM BARBARA WALTERS ASKING HIM TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL THAT PRIMIN BEGIN HAD BROUGHT TO WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO SADAT, WHEN HE TOLD WALTERS THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT PROPOSAL BEGIN WAS BRINGING, SHE SAID THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS TWO-FOLD: (A) A WILLINGNESS TO EVACUATE ALL OF SINAI WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SHARM EL SHEIKH; (B) WITH RESPECT TO THE WEST BANK, THE ISRAELIS WERE READY TO ALLOW THE INHABITANTS TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN NATIONALITY, BUT ON THE BASIS THAT THEY COULD UNITE WITH JORDAN IN SOME FASHION SO LONG AS THE ISRAELIS MIGHT RETAIN TROOPS "IN THE BORDER AREAS." WALTERS, AGAIN ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT, CLAIMED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER ALREADY KNEW ALL ABOUT WHAT BEGIN IS BRINGING AND SHE THEN AGAIN ASKED SADAT'S OPINION OF THIS PROPOSAL. SADAT SAID THAT HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON PROPOSAL THAT BEGIN MIGHT BE BRINGING, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN CONVEYED TO HIM. HOWEVER, HE WANTED ME TO GET AN URGENT MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE THAT IF THESE ARE INDEED THE POINTS THAT BEGIN IS BRINGING AS AN ISRAELI PEACE PROPOSAL, THEY WERE UNACCEPTABLE. HE COULD NOT
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AGREE TO EITHER OF THEM. THEY ARE THE SAME PROPOSALS BEGIN HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE. THEY WOULD BE A SERIOUS BLOW AND WOULD BE VIEWED IN EGYPT AND THE ARAB WORLD AS A "DAMAGING BLOW TO OUR EFFORTS." IF THIS IS IN FACT THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL, PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE SHOULD KNOW THAT IT WILL SERIOUSLY WEAKEN HIM. IT SHOULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES BE "DECLARED" (I ASSUME IN TERMS OF A DECLARATION OF THE TYPE THAT HE REQUESTED). SADAT CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE KNOW HIS REACTION TO ANY SUCH PROPOSAL. HE SAID SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE WANTED ME TO GET WORD TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE SECRETARY WITHOUT DELAY ON HIS POSITION. THE PRESIDENT ADDED HE WAS WORRIED THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL SUBSEQUENTLY SEEK TO PRESENT THIS PROPOSAL AS ONE HAVING USG ENDORSEMENT. THIS WOULD BE DISASTROUS TO HIM.

3. FOR REASONS INDICATED ABOVE, I COULD NOT QUERY HIM RE DETAILS OF WALTERS TELECON, BUT THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT HE WAS DEEPLY DISTURBED ABOUT WHAT WALTERS HAD TOLD HIM.

4. AM MEETING WITH SADAT TOMORROW AT TWELVE NOON LOCAL
TO BRIEF HIM ON THE SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH ASSAD AND
I SHOULD AT THAT TIME BE ABLE TO GET A MORE DETAILED
READING FROM HIM ON THE WALTERS TELECON.

5. I HAVE BRIEFED ROY ATHERTON ON ABOVE THIS EVENING
AND WILL SEND HIM A COPY OF THIS TELEGRAM FIRST THING
IN THE MORNING. HE WILL SUBMIT HIS OWN COMMENTS.
I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SEND A FULLER VERSION OF SADAT/
WALTERS TELECON AFTER I SEE HIM TOMORROW. EILTS

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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